

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Approved by Committee January 14, 2021 – No quorum present, informational only

Date: Februarys 11th 2020

Time: 2PM-4PM

Location 1313 Farnam ST, Room 227, Omaha NE

Interpreters: Sharon Sinkler and Kathy Rocco

Minutes: Jessica Larrison

Members Present: Ms. Tracy Minto

Member Absent: Mr. Lisa Vogal, Ms. Linda Wittmuss, Mr. Benjamin Clancy, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell

NCDHH Staff Present: Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Mr. Dillion Curren, Advocacy Specialist, and Ms. Jessica Larrison, Education Advocate

NCDHH Staff Absent: Mr. John Wyvill, Mr. Cody McEvoy

Technical Advisors Present: Ms. Sue Czaplowski

Technical advisors absent: Ms. Tina Work

Meeting called to order: by Carly Weyers called the meeting to order at 2:01PM

Ms. Carly Weyers announced the notice of the meeting was duly given, posted, published, and tendered in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and all board members received notice simultaneously by email. Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the October 31, 2019 edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Not enough had attended so we were unable to vote, voting with wait until our May meeting.

New Business

- **Coffee with Cops.** Carly shared that on Februarys 22nd from 9:00Am- 12:00PM they will be having Coffee with Cops in Lincoln. Cops already have a coffee with cops but it is more for the hearing community so she is hoping with setting up this event the cops and the Deaf community

will see the importance of this gathering and the benefits. They hope that it will be a success and the cops will continue to have a Coffee with the Cops with the Deaf and Hard or Hearing community and thinks about hiring their own interpreters so there will be on going communication access.

- **Hospital Complaints.** Carly also shared that John has her and Cody McEvoy looking into making the hospital complaint more standard and the process smoother. The complaint form right now is in English only as well and they want to make it bilingual to make sure it's accessible to everyone. There are a lot of complaints happening but now it's time to keep track of all the complaints so then when the hospitals say it's their first one we can prove that communication access is an issue and then with numbers proving that we hope the hospitals take the next step and set up training. Cody and Carly do trainings already at CHI frequently because they got a lot of complaints and say that is a huge issue and now set up training and are trying to improve.
- **Emergency Preparedness.** Carly and Cody are also working on Emergency preparedness videos, They have been in Contact with NEMA and FEMA but they are hard to get ahold of as months go by before they email them back but those two are still working hard and getting the information they need.

Enrichment Foundation Grant Application

- **Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI) Workshop / Registry of Interpreters (RID) test** – Applied for the grant to see if we could host a 40 hour workshop. Would like to bring in a couple of people who are really adept at CDI training, then having a RID rater come in and certify people.

The grant got Approved and talked to people from Gallaudet who said they can make that happen, they would come and teach and then after the workshop they would host the RID test.

NCDHH cannot pay for the participants to take the RID test, they have to pay for this individually.

Ms. Weyers added the importance of educating Mental Health Providers on the importance of using CDI's if needed to make communication easier for the deaf client. Also stated the CHI from their training have noticed the need for them and are wondering where they are at but since we only have DI who is not certified the hopes is to get more Certified Deaf Interpreters to use in these situations.

NCDHH Executive Director Report – Mr. John Wyvill (unable to attend Carly gave update for him)

- **Legislature update.** LB 839 our recognize ASL as a language and LB 965 LEAD-K. These bill have combined and are not one bill, they did amend the LEAD-k bill because NDE stated they wanted to be involved so that got added. So far the bill has had no objections.
 - Sue C added that she did hear of a group of Supervisors of Special Education were planning on objecting it because of redundancy as they are already testing these kids and because they are having an outside agency in charge. Wasn't sure if they filed the objection but people have heard of that group objecting it.
- **Full board meeting.** On June 12th there will be a full board meeting in Kearney and the day before on June 11th they will have a town hall meeting in Kearney to reach out more other than just the Lincoln and Omaha area.
- **Interpreter Referral Program.** The program ended, and so far it has been going smooth, NCDHH website has a list of independent interpreters, agencies, and VRI companies that are taking over.

- **December Town Hall Meeting.** We had a town hall meeting at OAD with the Medical Chief Director Dr. Gary Athone, we had a great turnout and a lot of the community attended and some got to tell their stories but he had to leave and some people felt they wanted to share their stories still but didn't have a change so he gave out his email for people to send him their stories so he was more aware. This is also where we noticed the Complaint process needs to be smoother and all standard rather than each Advocacy specially doing it their own way and also need to keep track of the complains so we can bring it up the hospitals.

Agency Updates

- Cody McEvoy (unable to attend Carly read notes from him) He is still working with CPS (Child Protective Services) they are talking about setting up a meeting to discuss access for Deaf and Hard or Hearing individuals.
 - Also set up a meeting with Kim with Milestone Deaf Center about how they set up their center and how we can make this happen in Nebraska.
- Sue C- working on setting up deaf mentor program for our students in Nebraska, has come across challenges with safety as we don't want to put the kids at risk and times for the kids to meet the deaf mentor can be challenging for students in Rural areas. Asked everyone to brainstorm ways that can happen as if its meet during Regional Program activities and then zoom each other but would like more ideas.
- Tracey Minto: said her move to her new office on 180th & Q has been really good, she is filling appointments times up faster

Next Meeting Dates/ Meeting Time from 2p-4p Interpretation when requested

- May 12, 2020 – Lincoln
- August 11th, 2020 – Omaha
- November 10th, 2020 – Lincoln

This Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM